

KIOSK PERFINS

By Dave Hill

A member asked me to put some of his material in the auction. I had separated out a number of postcards with perfins and was going to lot them together cheaply as illegal use. There are quite a lot of postcards like this about. It seems it was not unusual for a supply of the firm's perfined stamps to be taken on holiday for this purpose!

Some of these postcards I was sorting were foreign, including a card with a stamp perfined 'K' from Holland. An Auction description fell out of the packet, I think from Bournemouth Auctions. They obviously knew more than I as they described it as a "Kiosk" perfin. I looked at my Dutch Perfin Catalogue and this confirmed it (albeit in Dutch which I do not understand). Member Dick Scheper provided me with a full explanation and the examples illustrated.

It seems that kiosks at railway stations and market places which sold newspapers, postcards and stamps often had stamps perfined to prevent them being exchanged for cash at post offices. The perfins could have been used by the purchaser on postcards and letters. Some postcards were printed or stamped with the name of the kiosk owner. These are keenly sought by collectors (at least those who know). I am not alone in my ignorance, most other perfin collectors I spoke to did not know about them either. We do not usually have many articles in the Bulletin on foreign perfins but I'm sure Rosemary will include others like this of a general nature, especially where we are ignorant of a whole class of perfin. Was something similar used in Germany? *[Ed:- I am only too pleased to print this information - I too had never heard of 'Kiosk' perfins.]*

The first three 'K' perfins, K1, K2 & K3 in the Dutch Catalogue were used by **Kiosk-Onderneming Amsterdam** which became **Amst. Kiosk-Onderneming (AKO)**. They were used from 1895 until 1967.

K4 & K5 were used by **N V Van Ditmars** couranten-import en kiosken-onderneming in Rotterdam between 1922 and 1940.

Perfins SI & S2 were used by **W A Segboer, later Haagsche Kioskonderneming** in the Hague between 1907 and 1954.

Perfins SB1 & SB2 were sold from the kiosks of **Algemeene Spoorwegboekhandel** on railway stations throughout Holland. The first from 1924 to 1974: the second is scarce, only used from 1924 to 1927.

